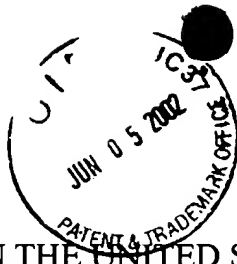


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PATENT

#10
A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application

Applicant: Utsumi et al.

Serial No.: 09/159,833

Filed: September 24, 1998

For: STORING APPARATUS AND
AND PASSWORD CONTROL
METHOD

Art Unit: 2131

Examiner: Jackson, Jenise E.

) I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United
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) Date
) F-CLASS.WCM
) Appr. February 20, 1998

)
) Registration No. 29367
) Attorney for Applicant

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Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT A

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the office action mailed December 17, 2001, please amend the
application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 2 with the following rewritten
paragraph:

According to the invention, a storing apparatus for protecting an access of
information recorded on a medium by a password has a password preserving unit and

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